

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Causey Center dedicated at Central Hills

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

As hundreds of well-wishers looked on, the William "Bill" Causey Missions and Activities Center at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko was dedicated August 28 in honor of the executive director-treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The multi-purpose facility is the capstone of a building program that totaled \$1.5 million at the state convention's 27-year old Royal Ambassador (RA) campground in Attala County, providing a full-size gymnasium/auditorium, a new

snack bar area with a large deck, a number of meeting rooms, and a computer room where RAs in the future will be able to communicate via e-mail with Southern Baptist missionaries around the world.

Other components of the completed building program include a pair of air-conditioned lodges, improved maintenance and Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit facilities, paving of roads throughout the camp, and updated signage.

Causey thanked the crowd for their attendance and for the honor of having the building named after him.

He expressed appreciation for the Baptist Building staff present during his nine-year tenure as executive director-treasurer, and for God's presence when difficult decisions were demanded.

"I am aware that it was his hand and his mind that kept Mississippi Baptists together. He has been here," Causey said.

He also urged Mississippi Baptists to continue to do "everything in our power" to fulfill the goal of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Tupelo Mayor Larry Otis, chairman of the feasibility and building committee that oversaw planning and construction of all the new Central Hills facilities, commended the volunteers and Central Hills staffers who finished the building program after contractors completed the initial stages of construction.



CAUSEY HONORED — On hand for the August 28 dedication of the new multi-purpose building at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, named in honor of William "Bill" Causey (center), executive director-treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), were current MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral (left) and Larry Otis, chairman of the feasibility and building committee. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"There were over 400 volunteers, and they contributed \$750,000-\$1,000,000 in labor. We came in about \$250,000 under budget," Otis reported.

Otis praised the "love and skill" of the volunteers, who he said settled for nothing less than perfection in the fit and finish of the buildings.

"We have always said Central Hills was Mississippi Baptist's best-kept secret. We don't want to keep it a secret any longer," he said.

Jim Futral, current MBCB executive director-treasurer, thanked Causey for this leadership and called attention to the "incredible work that has taken place here," commending the volunteers who worked faithfully to compete the building program.

The dedication service was followed by a luncheon in the gymnasium/auditorium and then a regularly-scheduled meeting of the full convention board in the afternoon.

At that meeting, convention board members

unanimously approved a 2002 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$30,522,692 — a 1.58% increase over the current Mississippi CP budget.

The proposed 2002 budget will now be submitted to messengers for their approval during the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 30-31 at First Church, Jackson.

Members also heard reports from each board committee, and approved a recommendation

from the camps and assemblies committee for a slight increase in fees at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

The MBCB executive committee met August 27 at the Baptist Building in Jackson to address several items before the full board meeting on August 28.

The executive committee approved the hiring of Kris Walters of Hattiesburg to be the new associate director of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg (USM).

Walters, who already has five years of service as an intern and assistant on the BSU staff at USM, replaces Michael Ball, who left to become the new BSU director at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Ball replaced longtime BSU director Ken Watkins, who retired earlier this summer and moved to Rochester, N.Y., to enroll in a Clinical Pastoral Education program.

The executive committee approved the appointment of Roy Myers, interim pastor of Calvary Church, West Point, to fill the unexpired convention board term of Golden Triangle Association representative Gary Richardson.

Richardson resigned the pastorate of First Church, West Point, earlier this year to accept a call to become pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford.

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

VOL. 125

NO. 30

Walters

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Vestal visits state

Directions

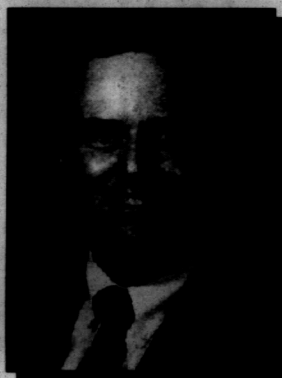
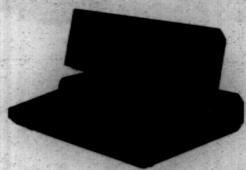
Letters to the editor

Sunday School lessons



DEDICATION CEREMONY — More than 250 people attended the August 28 dedication service for the new multi-purpose facility at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. The facility is named for William "Bill" Causey, executive director-treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larimore

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Heather Cumberland

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland
Charles Dunagin, McComb
Ken Hester, Pontotoc
Allan Nix, Laurel
David Petty, Hattiesburg
Michael Weeks, Olive Branch
Heather Cumberland, secretary

**Postmaster: Send changes of address
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org**

VOLUME 125 NUMBER 30
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

Surrendering without a fight

A quick question: What is the major expense item in the average American college student's budget, after tuition, food, and housing? Some hints: It's not clothing. It's not books, gasoline, or even medical expenses.

It's alcohol.

A recently-released study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pegs the total yearly amount of money spent on alcohol by this country's college students at more than \$5.5 billion dollars.

While you try to catch your breath from that statistic, consider the conclusions of two Harvard University School of Public Health studies:

◆ 63% of the students surveyed reported that they had consumed alcoholic beverages in the past 30 days, even though it is illegal everywhere in the country to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

◆ Underage drunks are "significantly more likely" to experience alcohol-related problems such as unplanned sexual activity, serious injury, arrest, and overdose.

◆ "Areas near college campuses are characterized by a high density of alcohol outlets, intense competition, and high-volume, reduced-price sales. Easily obtainable cheap alcohol, especially beer, fuels binge drinking for underage college students," wrote lead author and study director Henry Wechsler.

◆ Fraternities and other social groups on campuses often sponsor keg parties where students pay a one-time cover charge and drink as much beer as they can, effectively serving as for-profit, unlicensed, and untaxed alcohol distributors who seldom check IDs at the door.

◆ "Many fraternities and sororities are functional saloons," the report states, pointing out that 80% of women who live in sorority houses are binge drinkers, and 86% of men who live in fraternity houses are bingers.

◆ Underage binge drinkers report that they have experienced numerous physical, social, and academic problems due to their drinking.

Yet as alcohol continues to literally consume our young people's lives at an increasing rate, we as a society don't seem to be overly alarmed.

Lawmakers have done their part, raising the legal drinking age from 18 to 21 while lowering BAC (blood alcohol content) and stiffening penalties for underage drinkers.

Law enforcement agencies are diligent in enforcing the laws that are on the books.

It's just that we don't care all that much. Whether we think it's harmless fun for the kids or just feel it's too hopeless to try to do anything, we have detached from this issue with devastating consequences.

In a state well above the national average for both alcohol-related traffic fatalities and underage alcohol-related alcohol traffic fatalities, it's time Mississippians — and Mississippi Baptists in particular — get reengaged.

Time was when Mississippi Baptists were known for their unwavering stand

**Relax, pal — I'm just here to update
the roll of your college students
killed by alcohol.**



against alcohol in any form, but the voices of countless alcohol victims now cry out from their graves, demanding to know why we surrendered such an important issue without much of a fight.

Well, what is your answer?

GUEST OPINION:

State missions offering gifts helping to reach Hispanics

*By Joel Medina, mission pastor
Carthage/Kosciusko*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 census report, the Hispanic population in America has grown in huge proportions. In 1990 the total Hispanic population in Mississippi was close to 15,000; the latest statistics show an increase of 25,000 people for an estimated total of 40,000 Hispanics in Mississippi.

Why are they coming to Mississippi? I can answer that — money. Jobs have brought Hispanics to the state. Mississippi has become the "promised land," the land of opportunities, for Hispanics.

Many times I ask myself why so many Hispanics risk their lives crossing dangerous rivers and deserts, and walk days without provisions. The answer is because the economic situation in Latin America is very hard.

In Mexico one U.S. dollar is worth nine pesos, but the inflation rate is higher than in the U.S. In many places in Latin America, people work all day for 30 pesos and the price for two pounds of chicken is 20 pesos.

Hispanics come to Mississippi with the goal of supporting their families. Thanks to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO), we can offer them the most valuable support — Jesus Christ.

In Hispanic culture, people know the name of Jesus but they don't know the real Jesus. They know the meaning of religion but they don't know the

meaning of having a relationship with the real Jesus.

In 1996, my wife Damaris and I joined a great team in Forest with the purpose of reaching Hispanics for Christ. The team was composed of the late Wade "Diego" Fisher, Jonathan Sharp, Jose L. Lopez, and others.

Three years before, Fisher

and Sharp started the Hispanic work in Scott County. Fisher died in an automobile accident a few years ago.

Today Hispanic mission work is all over Mississippi. Under the leadership of Lopez in Forest, a permanent building has been built to celebrate worship services.



REACHING HISPANICS — Church members assemble outside Christ the Redeemer Hispanic Baptist Chapel in Carthage. The mobile chapel in the background, along with other support, is being provided by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. (BR special photo)

In 1998, we started a mission in Carthage and in 1999 God opened doors to develop another mission in Kosciusko — thanks to MLSMO; Leake Association in Carthage; Attala Association in Kosciusko; Corinth Church, Carthage; First Church, Kosciusko; Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; and other churches.

God called other servants to expand his Kingdom like David Alexander, Tino Trevino, Rockey Tzib, Gustavo Salazar, Alberto Rivera, Adalberto Benegas, Eduardo Esguerra, Paula Smith, Filipe Soto, and others.

Thanks to the vision of people like you who support MLSMO, every Sunday Hispanics have the chance to hear the Word of God — not only in Mississippi but also in their home countries when they go back to their families and witness to them.

You don't need to speak Spanish to be a part of these ministries. Just pray and God will show you what you need to do.

Medina pastors Christ the Redeemer Hispanic Baptist Chapel in Carthage and Love Mission Jesus of Nazareth in Kosciusko. For more information on MLSMO, contact Debbie Sills at the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3320 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 320. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org. Visit www.mbcb.org and click on the MLSMO graphic.

Missionaries: get help for mental problems

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — She wanted to disappear. She wanted to die. She thought her family would be better off without her.

Shyre McCune's life had changed unexpectedly in 1992 when she started feeling overwhelmed to the point of losing control.

On the mission field in Honduras with her husband, Ken, and two sons, Shyre — who previously never had exhibited any signs of mental problems — started having episodes of self-destructive behavior.

"I would bang my head on the wall, and I would hit my arms and legs until they were bruised," recalled Shyre, who grew up in Missouri as a Baptist pastor's daughter.

Ken was bewildered. "I didn't know what was going on. Shyre had always been independent and not afraid to do things, and then she started withdrawing and doing strange things."

Shyre became afraid to leave the house alone, and she started having hallucinations.

"She's arachnophobic anyway, and she would see real spiders, but she also would see spiders that weren't there. She would want me to kill a spider, and it wouldn't really be there, but I would kill it anyway," Ken said.

The McCunes had been on the mission field four years and had just returned to Honduras after a furlough when the problems became noticeable.

Several months later, they requested a medical furlough from the International Mission Board (IMB) and arrived at a Dallas mental health center.



Shyre and Ken McCune

After 14 months of therapy, they returned to Honduras — with misgivings.

"I told the counselor I had doubts about her being ready to go back to the mission field, but he talked me into it, saying she'd be fine," Ken said.

Three weeks later, Shyre had another episode of self-destructive behavior. "I quit having any feelings for anyone," she recalled. "Everything shut down. I had a lot of anger, usually at myself, but later on, I took my anger out on Ken for things he hadn't done."

After an episode subsided, Shyre said, she felt ridiculous. "I'd wonder why I did that. I didn't want Ken or the kids to see me like that, but I couldn't control this."

"I felt something going on,

but I couldn't stop it. That's why I sought help, but it wasn't stopping," Shyre said.

By this time, the McCunes' marriage was under severe strain. Shyre's conversations were irrational, making it difficult for the two to talk without arguing.

"Everybody has normal marital problems, but (these were) irrational problems," Ken said. "We recognized marriage problems were happening, but that wasn't the root problem — her illness was."

They returned to the States, this time going to Shawnee, Okla.

"I had another episode," Shyre recounted. "Ken took me to the hospital, and there was a good psychiatrist on the team."

"Within a month, I was doing a whole lot better."

The difference: "Shyre's psychiatrist

was the first person in the mental health field who didn't blame her problem on me or her childhood or anything other than what it was: an illness treatable by medication."

Shyre was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. The condition combines symptoms such as irrational behaviors, anxieties, depression, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, and hallucinations.

"It took a while to get the right medication with the right dosage, and I've still been back in the hospital a couple of times, but I was on the road to recovery," Shyre said.

For the past two years, Shyre has not had any episodes. As long as she takes her medication and doesn't "overdo," she is fine.

"I can feel an episode coming on now, I start to feeling a sensation that things are getting out of control; if I've got too much going on, I know I need to back off," she said.

Once, she decided to stop taking her medication and she

became suicidal. Ken took her to the hospital after she overdosed on some pills.

"After that last hospitalization, I decided I'd rather take medicine than have the problems like I had been having. (The problems) disrupted my family life."

"I decided if that's what I have to do, then thank God for providing the medicine for me," she said.

The McCunes said if they had seen a psychiatrist sooner, they could have saved themselves a lot of trouble.

Today, the McCunes live in Springfield, Mo., where they are members of Ridgcrest Church.

Ken is coordinator of the church planting initiative for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

THE BAPTIST Record



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

VOL. 125

No. 30

LifeWayonline battling problems

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWayonline, the filtered Internet service offered by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, continues to experience technology provider transition difficulties, frustrating both its customers and LifeWay. In July, LifeWay signed an agreement with the nation's largest filtered Internet company, IntegrityOnline. The change to the new technology provider resulted in a large volume of calls by customers to activate the upgraded service. Subsequently, glitches on the part of a company that provides services to IntegrityOnline, paired with inappropriate billing from the former vendor, 711.net, have left some customers without service and others attempting to resolve billing disputes. The decision to remove LifeWayonline from 711.net was the result of service performance that did not meet the expectations of LifeWay or its customers and other contractual issues, said Gary McClure, marketing manager for LifeWay's e-business group. "Currently, LifeWayonline is working to rebuild toward our previous subscriber level of 5,400. While many of the circumstances have been out of our control, we are accountable to LifeWayonline users for the poor experience some have had. We regret the inconveniences customers have experienced in the transition. However, the problems LifeWay has had do not outweigh our opportunity and privilege to protect children, families, and churches from harmful online content. With IntegrityOnline we are now working day by day, customer by customer, to address remaining problems and move forward adding new services," McClure said.

Looking back

10 years ago

California pastor Jess Moody agrees to be nominated for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) next year in a last-ditch attempt to heal the rift between the two factions that have fought for control of the SBC for more than a decade.

20 years ago

Membership in Southern Baptist churches grew faster than the U.S. population during the 1970's, a comprehensive study reports, but the convention's growth fell significantly behind the increase in population in the Sun Belt states, according to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

50 years ago

Steps toward the establishment of some type of Southern Baptist presence in the fledgling field of religious television broadcasting are taken in Atlanta during a recent meeting of the Baptist Radio Commission.

AB officially launches investment products

DALLAS (BP) — On Aug. 27, AB Funds Trust, a no-load family of mutual funds spon-

sored by the Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), became operational and functional in the registered investment environment.

"The day has arrived and we are ready to move forward into this new arena," said O.S. Hawkins, Annuity Board president, during a morning celebration at the Dallas-based SBC agency.

"This is a historic day in the life of the Annuity Board and I am grateful to our trustees and our staff for their diligence and 'extra mile' effort to be ready for this conversion.

"We can now answer 'ABSolutely!' to the institutional employee who wants to open an IRA or roll over his retirement account from a previous employer," Hawkins said, tapping the Annuity Board's "AB" abbreviation.

"We can now answer 'ABSolutely!' to the institutional employee who wants to open an IRA or roll over his retirement account from a previous employer."

"We can now answer 'ABSolutely!' to the county seat pastor who receives an inheritance and needs a place he trusts to invest his money in a personal savings account," Hawkins said.

Speaking before 420 AB employees and guests, John Jones, the board's chief operating officer, shared the milestones of this journey.

In October 1997, Hawkins joined the AB as president with the assignment to "take something great and make it greater."

Hawkins recast the vision statement to include the charge "to honor the Lord by being a Life Partner(tm) with our participants in enhancing their financial security."

In November 1999, AB trustees unanimously approved the proposal for the board to begin the process of establishing a registered investment company.

In February 2000, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) voted to submit a revised mission statement and new ministry assignment for approval to the 2000 Southern

Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

In March 2000, the AB formed the mutual fund project team to begin the process.

In June 2000, the SBC approved the revised mission statement and new ministry assignment. In July 2000, legal documents to establish AB Funds Trust were filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In April 2001, existing investment funds were restructured and/or renamed to prepare the funds for operation.

In May, the new mutual fund board met for the first time. On July 5, AB Funds Trust officially became effective. On Aug. 27, final conversion of the investment funds to registered mutual funds occurred and the new products and services were launched.

For more complete information about AB Funds Trust, including charges and expenses, call (800) 262-0511 to request a prospectus.

Annuity Board officials advise that potential investors read it carefully before investing or sending money for the expanded services.



READY TO GO — George Tous van Nijkerk (third from left), chairman of the Annuity Board (AB) trustees, rings the bell symbolizing the launch of AB Funds Trust. Joining in the celebration are (from left) AB President O.S. Hawkins; Chief Operating Officer John Jones; Tous van Nijkerk; and AB staff. (Photo by John Collyer)

sored by the Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), became operational and functional in the registered investment environment.

"The day has arrived and we are ready to move forward into this new arena," said O.S.

employer," Hawkins said, tapping the Annuity Board's "AB" abbreviation.

"We can now answer 'ABSolutely!' to the institutional employee who wants to open an IRA or roll over his retirement account from a previous employer."

Vestal visits Ridgeland for 'town hall dialogue'

By Jim Newton
Mississippi CBF

Saying the world has changed radically in the last 20 years, the national coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) urged members of Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland, and others to join CBF in a strategic partnership to help fulfill the church's mission.

"It is a new day in world missions," said Daniel Vestal of Atlanta during a "town hall dialogue" at the Ridgeland church the evening of August 26.

"The world is not going to be led to Christ by white, Anglo-Saxon, male Baptist missionaries," he said. "It is going to be led to Christ when local churches discern the mission of God and discover their participation in the mission of God."

"You don't delegate the missionary enterprise to the denomination. You accept responsibility and partner with open hearts with others."

Vestal challenged the church to stop thinking from the narrow perspective of Southern Baptists from North America, and to start thinking about the whole body of Christ globally.

"When you start thinking that way, you discover there are incredible resources in the body of Christ. The missionary enterprise is a grand and glorious enterprise, much bigger than our own denominational program," Vestal said.

He pointed out that there are more than 250,000 missionaries serving worldwide representing 18,000 different denominations.

"It is important for us to see God and work in this world, and then discover what part God wants us to play in it," he pointed out.

Vestal said the CBF does not make a distinction between home and foreign missions. "We talk about global missions," he said.

Instead of appointing missionaries to specific countries, CBF sends its 140 missionaries to work in partnership with other Christians across geographic borders with the 20 most neglected or unreached people groups in the world, internationals, and marginalized people other Christian mission groups are not reaching.

Asked to contrast the differences between the CBF and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Vestal said that CBF is not a convention of churches or a denomination.

"We are a fellowship of both individuals and churches," he said.

Vestal said the SBC is fundamentally different today than it was before 1979.

He said the SBC has become increasingly "creedal" by forcing employees to sign the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, has adopted a "control mentality" with

"forced conformity," and has changed the role of women with no tolerance for women in ministry.

Vestal drew a diagram of what he described as a "totally different model of Baptist life" which he believes "is the future for Baptists in North America."

He called it the "post denominational" or the "partnering/networking" model.

Drawing a circle in the middle representing the local church with other circles radiating out from the center, Vestal said that to fulfill its mission, the local church needs to create partnering relationships.

For example, he said a church might partner with the state convention and the SBC, but also partner with CBF national, CBF-Mississippi, a parachurch organization, a missionary organization, or even a community organization.

"Now in this model, if one of your partners says to you as a church, 'Don't partner with them. It's competition. It's not good. They're not good,' then whose business is it?" Vestal asked.

"It's the local church's business," he answered.

Stressing that the mission of CBF is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission, Vestal said CBF "wants to partner with you and your church to fulfill your mission vision."

Highland Colony Church pastor Steve Wells said the dialogue was planned almost a year ago after he asked his church members if they wanted their mission money to go through the SBC, through the CBF, or if they had enough information to know.

Since the vast majority said they needed to know more about CBF, Wells said he invited Vestal to lead the town hall dialogue, which was open to the public.



VESTAL IN MISSISSIPPI — Daniel Vestal (left), national coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta, talks with Steve Wells, pastor of Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland, before the August 26 "town hall dialogue" at the church. (Photo by Jim Newton)

Serial church arsonist gets life term in Ga.

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP) — The man who apparently set more churches on fire than any other individual during the last decade will spend the rest of his life in prison. While many of the 829 churches targeted for arson between 1995 and 1999 were presumed to have been an expression of racial hatred, arsonist Jay Scott Ballinger says he drew his inspiration from Lucifer. Ballinger's eight-state crime spree ended in early 1999 when he suffered burns to his own body after setting a fire in Ohio.

When the FBI searched his Daleville, Ind., residence, they found evidence of satanic paraphernalia including pentagrams, goat heads, and a book of spells. Gentry Shelnuitt of the U.S. District Attorney's office in Atlanta said there was no evidence that Ballinger targeted churches of a particular denominational affiliation.

There was no evidence presented that Ballinger targeted any Mississippi churches.

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

The summer of 2001 has been noted by some as the summer of the sharks. Not since the movie *Jaws* came out in the 70s has so much attention been given to this patriarch of the oceans. All of us have been caught up in the drama and sympathy related to some of the shark maulings.

With every shark event, the news media have been there to see and show us what is going on. They have covered "shark sightings" and "shark bitings," and when those hundreds gathered in the waters around Tampa for some kind of a party, I suppose they could have been called "shark invitings."

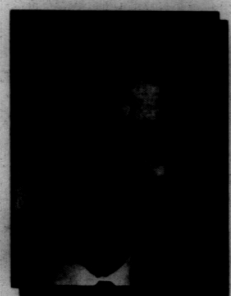
At first, some people were attacked without any awareness or warning. Then there were those incidents where people were literally passing by the sharks on their way out into deeper water in order to catch a wave and some of them were attacked.

When the red flags are up indicating shark sightings, and when you can see their fins in the water, it seems to me that it does not take the brightest guy on the beach to figure out, "I better not go in there!" but, there they go!

One young man who was being interviewed after he was attacked was asked what he was thinking. "I suppose," he said, "you think — that just couldn't happen to me!" You would think we would learn, but it seems as though we never do.

Who of us has not either contemplated or done some foolish deed, believing we could get by with it? It has to be one of Satan's fine and refined tools.

Maybe the reason that thought works so well is because so many people fall for it. "It won't happen to me!" is the recurring thought with which the smoker lives, thinking that lung cancer will never be a part of his future.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The gambler believes that family and well-being will never be affected. The drinker thinks that neither body nor relationships will be affected. The person involved in an illicit relationship thinks that no one will be hurt and they will never be caught. On and on the thought process goes — "It won't ever happen to me!"

Maybe we all should have the tragic, painful picture of a child or a man mauled by a shark etched in our minds to remind us that when you swim with sharks, you can be destroyed!

No doubt that is what God is trying to tell us in his Word. Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." It can happen to you. It can happen to me. It can happen to all of us when we play around with temptation and sin.

With every one of us, pride causes us to think and say within ourselves, "While others cannot handle it — they are not strong enough, or smart enough, or don't know where to draw the line — I can handle it! I can manage the shark-infested waters of temptation!" Yet, the deceptiveness

of sin is always at work and frankly, no one ever has and no one ever will "micro-manage" sin!

Maybe we can learn some lessons from this summer of the shark:

Lesson One. There are waters in which sharks live and you cannot see them, so always be alert. No doubt Satan would like to create, for all of us, a kind of peaceful, placid comfort zone that makes us feel safe and secure from many of the threats of sin. Yet, all the while, Satan is craftily and carefully setting the trap to entangle and injure us.

Repeatedly the Scriptures call for the Christian to be alert, awake, and on-guard, for oftentimes you cannot see the attack of the wicked one coming.

Lesson Two. There are waters in which we swim where there have been shark sightings and the possibility of the destructiveness of temptation is clearly evident. The word to remember is avoid. The Scripture says to avoid even the appearance of evil.

If I was going to visit someone who had a highly contagious disease that was

potentially deadly, I doubt that I could persuade you to go with me. Yet, how many people go wading right off into temptation's waters believing that one drink will not hurt them, one night of controlled gambling will not break them, or one brief fling will not destroy them?

How many find out, sadly and tragically, that they were wrong?

Lesson Three. There are waters in which we and others have been attacked by the sharks of temptation and sin. The word to remember is announce. Tell people, "Don't go there!" With love, passion, and genuine conviction, encourage folks to stay away.

Have you listened to Jesus as he closed the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7? In that final chapter of his great sermon he said, "Enter ye in at the straight gate because wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many there be that go in thereat."

Jesus warned people to stay away from destruction — don't get into the shark-infested waters!

There are lessons to be learned for all of us. One good lesson to remember is that so far, in this summer of the shark, not one person standing on the dry beach has been attacked by a shark! The dry beach is a safe and secure place from being destroyed by a shark.

There is a place, in Jesus, where you are safe and secure and cannot be destroyed!



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Music helps sisters renew faith following tragedy

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Blessings sometimes come in ways people least expect them. Just ask Heather Wall Brill, 24, and her sister, Holly Wall Nesbitt, 26.

The two sisters have come through a turbulent year of

tragedy and blessings. They recently talked about losing their husbands in a Vermont canoe accident a year ago in August, moving home to Holts Summit, Mo., with their mother, and forming a music group with sister Heidi Wall Neeley.

"If I had a big plan, this wouldn't be it," Heather said. "I never thought about living here, but now that I'm here, I

feel a peace about it. This is where I am supposed to be."

These words don't come easily for a woman who lost her father to health problems months before losing her husband James and brother-in-law Scott Nesbitt.

She had planned to move to Texas that fall so James could attend seminary. Holly also was settled in, helping her

husband to start a Christian youth camp in Vermont.

"My relationship with God has strengthened so much," Holly said. "It's so much deeper."

The sisters recently completed their first demo CD, which features three songs with lyrics written by Heather and Holly.

Both Heather and Holly believe their music has helped them cope with their losses.

"I just know that how we dealt with the tragedy was clinging to God," Holly said. "We don't know how much time we have. You realize how precious life is. After [the accident] happened, we said from now on it is going to be nothing but ministry."

Holly acknowledged many difficult times. She remembers when she wouldn't open her Bible and would cry uncontrollably. "I prayed all the time, but I had to take baby steps, maybe just reading a chapter a day," she said. "I was starting over. Now it's so different."

Despite the tough times, Heather said she doesn't feel sorry for herself.

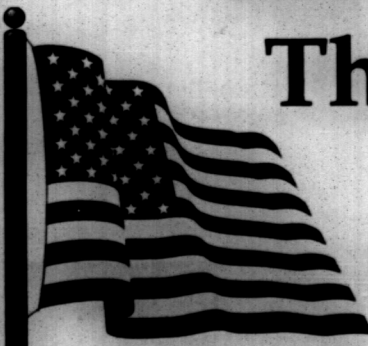
"It's not about us. Everyone has a sad story," she said.



FACING LOSS — After a year of tragedy and blessings, the Wall sisters of Holts Summit, Mo., enjoy sharing their faith through music. They are (from left) Holly Wall Nesbitt, Heidi Wall Neeley, and Heather Wall Brill. (Photo By Tim Palmer/Missouri Word and Way)

See You At The Pole

Wednesday
September 19, 2001



Resource materials can be obtained by calling (817) 447-7526 or on the internet by visiting www.syatp.com.

Please report your numbers to Don Lum at [dlum@mbcb.org](mailto:dalum@mbcb.org) or call (601) 292-3280 or (800) 748-1651 ext. 280 (outside Jackson).

Bible Drill material now available

This year's Bible Drill material is now available from the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

By contacting the DFM Department, interested persons can receive this year's Children and Youth Bible Drill Cycle 3 pamphlets at no charge. The pamphlets contain all of the basic information for Children and Youth Bible Drills.

"If you get any of the supplementary material from LifeWay such as student workbooks or Bible verse cards, be sure to get the version you want in Cycle 3," said DFM consultant Don Hicks.

For more information or to order pamphlets, contact Hicks at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 292-3287 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 287. e-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org.

Self Creek Church, Maben, will celebrate its centennial year in special services on Sept. 9. Billy Floyd, former pastor, will return for the morning worship service, which will begin at 11 a.m. Following dinner at noon, the centennial program will continue at 1:30 p.m. Serving as chairperson of the centennial committee is Madge Smith, a native of the Self Creek community and charter member. Other committee members include Willie Wesley, historian; Charles Register, Sunday School superintendent; Ray Tomlinson, Discipleship Training director;

Juanita McIlwain, church treasurer; Floddie Fulham, church clerk; and Shelia Crow, music.

GAs of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, participated in a recognition service on Aug. 5. Pictured (from left, front row) are Robin Chisolm and Virginia Smith; (back row) Olivia Johnston; Elizabeth Blanton, leader; Jessica Johnston; and Kacie Parker.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, will present a womanless beauty pageant Sept. 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



GAs of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City

REVIVAL DATES

Yockanookany, Kosciusko: Sept. 9-12; 7 p.m., The Lisemby Family from Kingsland, Ark., evangelist and music with live family band; Leslie Wooten, pastor.

Calvary, Yazoo City: Sept. 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bobby Perry, Gulfport, evangelist; Bill and Martha Martin, Benton, music; Richard Colwell, pastor.

Liberty Hill, Pope: Sept. 9-12; services, 7 p.m.; Alan Kilgore, Batesville, speaker; Al Mullan, interim pastor.

Providence, Hattiesburg: Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 8 and 10 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ryan Whitley, evangelist; Tim Hubbard, music; Ray Cummings, pastor.

New Palestine, Picayune: Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Cary Kimbrell, Laurel, guest speaker; Wayne Carter, Picayune, music; Gary Roberts, pastor.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
invites your indication of interest to:
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS
EARN UP TO: **9.25%**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.

5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

Tim Frith and The Gospel Echoes will be in concert at Parkview Church, Leland, on Sept. 9 at 6 p.m.

A mission team from **Pontotoc Association** went to Kiowa, Colo., July 7-14, to teach Vacation Bible School. Pictured (standing, from left) are Debra Tutor, Adley Steward, George Stewart, Casey Russell, Janie

Russell, Rosalyn Pickens, Faye Swann, (front) Leslie White and Margie Douglas. George Steward is director of missions.

Sandi Patty will be in concert December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Leflore County Civic Center in Greenwood. Cost is \$15. To purchase tickets, contact North Greenwood Church at (662) 453-2801.



Mission team from Pontotoc Association

South Mississippi Evangelism Conference

First Baptist Church ♦ Gulfport, MS

Monday, September 17

11:00 A.M.

Senior Adult Evangelism Rally and Luncheon

Tommy Mitchell, Director of Missions
Gulf Coast Baptist Association

6:30 P.M.

Fred Luter, pastor

Franklin Ave. Baptist Church
New Orleans, LA
Vice-President of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1996-1997
Member, SBC Council on the Family

Tom Elliff, pastor

First Southern Baptist Church
Del City, OK
President of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1996-1998
Chairman, SBC Council on the Family

Hosted by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and First Baptist Church, Gulfport.
For more information call (228) 863-8501.

LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.



"RAISED ROOF" VANS IN STOCK

- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- 2/1 Seating with Bucket Seats
- More headroom
- 15 Passengers (no CDL)

2001 Model: \$36,900 (new)

2000 Model: \$35,000 (new)

www.carpenterbus.com

"Nation's #1 church bus dealer."

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 6, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Literacy Missions Celebration

"For Such a Time as This"

October 18-20
Camp Garaywa

(Registration Thursday 4 p.m. — Adjourn Saturday, 3 p.m.)

Workshops will be led
by the Mississippi
Baptist Literacy Task
Force Team plus one
guest workshop leader.

GUEST SPEAKER

Gayle Leninger

National Literacy Missionary (retired)

NAMB



"For Such a Time as This" — Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Patterson Place: ____ 1 @ \$35 per person ____ 2 @ \$30 per person

____ 3 @ \$25 per person ____ 4 @ \$20 per person

Guest House: ____ \$14 per person

Meals: ____ \$36 meal package

____ \$7 Thursday dinner ____ \$5 Friday breakfast ____ \$5 Saturday breakfast

____ \$6 Friday lunch ____ \$6 Saturday lunch

____ \$7 Friday dinner

PLEASE CHECK THE (16 hr.) WORKSHOP THAT YOU WANT TO ATTEND

____ English as a Second Language (ESL)

____ Adult Reading and Writing (ARW)

____ Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)

____ \$25 per person for NAMB certification and ESL, ARW & TCY materials

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to Miss. Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)

Registration must be received by October 4, 2001.

Mail registration form along with your payment to:

Statewide Literacy Missions Celebration Board, WMU Department

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more information, contact the WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or
1-601-968-3800 (Jackson).

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

First Baptist Church
Jackson

Tuesday, September 25, 2001
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

A complimentary lunch will be served.
No registration is necessary.

There will be two separate study groups — one for pastors
and others who will lead adults in January Bible Study
groups and one for youth leaders who will lead
youth in JBS groups.

Leader for the adults will be Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First
Baptist Church, Columbia. The theme for the adult study is
the book *What's Life All About? Foundations for the Biblical
Worldview: Genesis 1-12* — Allan Moseley, author.

Leader for the youth will be Daniel Caldwell, dean of the
Cooper School of Biblical Studies, William Carey College.
The theme for the youth study is the book *Blueprints: Studies
from Genesis* — Kim Henderson, author.

Sponsored by the MBCB Sunday School Department
For more information, contact us at 1-800-748-1651
or (601) 968-3800 in Jackson, or by fax at (601) 714-7430,
or on the internet at www.mbc.org.

SENIORS

State Senior Adult Leadership Lab
(open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

November 1-2, 2001

(registration 1:30 p.m., 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)

Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch
only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001

Speakers: Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels,

Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. Music by R.L. and Beth Sigrest

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. For more info,
contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

Bobby Shows

Smaller Church Sunday School Workshops

CML

2001-2002 Media Libraries...
Focus on Leadership

MISSISSIPPI



BAPTISTS
CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY

30th Annual CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

October 5-6, 2001
First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss.

Calvin Miller

For more information, contact MBCB Communication Services:
Call 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3378, or E-mail jchen@mbcb.org.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

...HE IS ABLE

September Season of Prayer
for Mississippi Baptist
Churches of the
Margaret Lackey
State Mission Offering



2002 Mississippi
Baptist All-State
Youth Choir
and Orchestra

auditions

October 2001 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Saturday, 20th	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	FBC, Brookhaven
Thursday, 25th	4-8 p.m.	Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, 27th	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford

November 2001 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Saturday, 3rd	12-2 p.m.	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
Saturday, 10th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	William Carey College, Hattiesburg
Thursday, 15th	4-8 p.m.	FBC, Meridian
Saturday, 17th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Aven Hall, Mississippi College, Clinton

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece • Scales • Sight reading • Technique and tune
- For more info contact the Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (Jackson)

For more info contact Debbie Sills in the WML: Call 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3320 (Jackson); or E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org

December 27-28 • Mississippi College, Clinton
 AL Wood Coliseum

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thomas Young

John Avant

John Avant

Chris Davis

Dennis Lee

CSC 2001

State College Student Conference

September 28-29

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost \$6 (see web page for motel info)

Challenged by

His Name



Ryan Whitley
 Center Point Baptist Church
 Birmingham



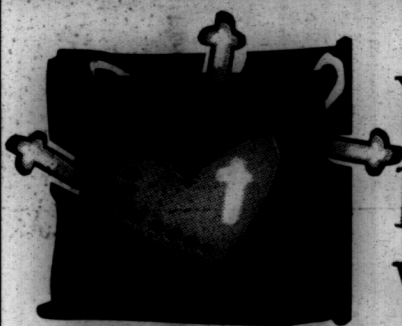
Emmett Dunn
 Baptist World Alliance
 Washington, D.C.



Nashville

For more info: www.mbc.org

or contact your BSU director, or the MBCB
 Collegiate Ministry Department at
 601-968-3800 (Jackson) or 1-800-748-1651



Youth Ministers Workshop

"Keeping Your Heart for God"

November 12-14, 2001

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville



Rob Turner

Student Evangelist/Conference
 Kettering, Ohio



Dave Hunt

Associate Student Minister
 First Baptist Church
 Nashville



Chuck Gartman

Youth Ministry Services
 Sunday School Dept., LifeWay
 Nashville

For more info, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral
 Ministries Dept. at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305 (Jackson).



MBRA Recreation
 and Youth Ministers

GOLF Tournament

Tuesday, October 9

Mallard Pointe Golf Club
 Sardis

Thursday, October 18

Shadow Ridge Golf Club
 Hattiesburg

Tournament Fee \$35

includes

- green fee • cart • lunch
- prizes • one mulligan

If you have any questions, please call

601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

or E-mail Harvey Ellis at

hgeilis@mbcb.org

It is very
 important
 that you get
 your registration
 form in to us by
Friday, September 28.
 so we can make
 all of the necessary
 arrangements.

Thanks for your help
 with this!

Pray this day for...

September 7-20, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Statistics tell us that every other person in Mississippi is lost. Not only are we mandated to give to State Missions, we are mandated to pray and to tell others about Jesus."

Vickie Heath

Disease, sickness, amoebas, parasites, malaria, AIDS, physical deformities, blindness, and many other types of human suffering continue to plague the Saramaccans of Suriname. Ask the Great Physician to move through these villages, healing the sick and hurting.

For: Anti-Gambling Sunday (CAC Emphasis) Everyone loses at gambling - except the game owners. Their goal is to entice you and to extract all your money. Pray that the people of our state will realize the evil of gambling and that they will avoid the temptation by not participating in it at all.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinics, Hernando BC, Hernando/Bayou View BC, Gulfport (D&FM); (2) Missions Development in Mississippi, North Oxford BC, Oxford, (SM); (3) Annuitants Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, (CMR & Annuity).

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinics, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/FBC, Natchez (D&FM); (2) Missions Development in Mississippi, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood (SM); (3) Pray today for Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa of Hong Kong.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinics, FBC, Tupelo/Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (D&FM); (2) Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office Skillsshops, Camp Garaywa (CAPM).

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinic, FBC, Clinton, 7-9 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Pray for the Chronological Bible Storying curriculum that is being developed for the Aymara of Bolivia. Pray that God will use this oral learning tool to bring many Aymara to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray for F. and J., new believers in Cordoba, Argentina. This couple chose to present their first child at church and dedicate him to God instead of taking him to a "curandero" (a cross between a quack and a witch doctor) to prevent the curse of the evil eye. Thank God for this victory.

For: (1) See You at the Pole (EVAN Emphasis); (2) The Korean minority community of Liaoning Province has experienced a great Christian revival. Pray that God will empower believers among the Korean minority to share the gospel among the other people groups.

Six prostitutes have accepted Christ in a village in Nigeria where there is a Mission Baptist Church! Two have found a new place of accommodation and are seeking a new livelihood. The others need accommodations. Pray that the Lord will continue to transform them.

Pray for the North American Mission Board's banquet Sept. 20 at the United Nations during the U.N. Summit on Children. The program includes Macedonian president Boris Trajkovski, Nigerian president Obasanjo, the Korean Children's Choir and a representative of the U.N. secretary-general's office.

For: (1) Christian Women's Job Corp Training, Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary; (3) God's wisdom for Linda Middlebrooks, asst. dir., Rachel Sims Baptist Mission, New Orleans, and the doctor to know if she needs surgery for the slipped disk in her back.

For: (1) "Parents of Preschoolers Day", Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) Cultural Awareness, Ripley Spanish Mission (SM); (3) Super Saturday: Sunday School Leadership Training, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (SS).

8

Pray for the literacy classes in several Beng villages of COTE D'IVOIRE where an overwhelming majority are illiterate. Pray for the faithful attendance of students, that they may learn to read and write in the Beng language so that they may one day be able to read Scripture in their heart language.

Mississippi
BIBLE
DRILL



Hebrews 4:12

Bible Drill is:

- hiding God's Word in your heart.
- finding any book of the Bible quickly.
- knowing where key passages and Bible teachings are located.
- learning to love and respect God's Word.

Bible Drill Clinics offer:

- basic training for leaders of children and youth Bible drills.
- training for callers, judges and time keepers (for church, associational and state drills).
- an introduction to Bible Buddies.
- an introduction to Speakers Tournament.

2001 BIBLE DRILL CLINICS

SEPTEMBER 10, 11, 17 & 18

CLINIC LOCATIONS AND LEADERS

Monday, September 10

Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando
led by Don Hicks

Bayou View Baptist Church
Gulfport
led by Harvey Ellis

Tuesday, September 11

First Baptist Church, Tupelo
led by Don Hicks

Main Street Baptist Church
Hattiesburg
led by Harvey Ellis

All clinics are
from 7-9 p.m.

Monday, September 17

First Baptist Church, Natchez
led by Don Hicks

Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church
Meridian*
• Experienced Leaders
led by Steve Jackson

• New Leaders led by Glenda Winstead

Tuesday, September 18

First Baptist Church, Clinton*
• Children's Workers (children's Bible Drill
and Bible Buddies) led by Don Hicks

• Youth Workers (youth Bible Drill
and Speakers Tournament)
led by Harvey Ellis

* These clinics have special features and are open
to anyone from anywhere across the state.

CLINIC PERSONNEL

Harvey Ellis, youth consultant
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Don Hicks, children's consultant
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Steve Jackson, pastor
McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

Glenda Winstead, Bible Drill leader
Hope Baptist Church, Philadelphia

For more info call the Discipleship and
Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

Visit our convention website:

mbccb.org

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Sapp, K. Harmon, J. Harmon, A. Pullen, L. Pullen, and W. Pullen

Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley, ordained Lee Pullen and Kevin Harmon as deacons, on Aug. 26. Pictured (from left) are David Sapp, pastor; Keith Harmon; Jackie Harmon; Andrea Pullen; Lee Pullen; and Willie Pullen, chairman of deacons.

Britton Johnston and Donnie Moore Jr. were presented certificates of license to the ministry on Aug. 26 in a special service at Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa. Johnston is a student at William Carey

College and Moore is in the baccalaureate program at New Orleans Seminary. Both men are preparing for a career in missions. Pictured (from left) are Moore, Johnston, and Greg Johnston, pastor.

Mike and Angela Britt, Brookhaven, recently entered into music evangelism. They are available for

revivals and retreats, and can be contacted at home (601) 835-1589 or Mt. Zion Church (601) 833-8018.

Donald Riley, retired, is available for supply, interim, or pastorate. He may be contacted at 31 Riley Lane, Columbia, MS 39429 or call (601) 736-6983.



The Britt

Bennie Richardson was ordained as a deacon of Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, in a special service on Aug. 26. Pictured (from left) are Greg Johnston, pastor; and Richardson.



Moore, B. Johnston, and G. Johnston



Johnston and Richardson

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL for First Baptist Church, Madison. Send resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130, ATTN: Terry; or e-mail tmarinaz@fbcmadison.org.
CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.
PART-TIME YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER in Neshoba County. Send resumes to Beatline Baptist Church, Search Committee, 12345 Road 505, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Daytime (601) 656-3653; leave message.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.
CFI — PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & AL. (800) 830-0583.
INTERIOR ELEMENTS STAINED GLASS STUDIO: Custom church windows. Columbus - toll free (877) 477-1899.
ALLEN MDS-40-S DIGITAL ORGAN. Perfect condition. Contact Jim or Susan Link @ (601) 264-2116.
BRANSON, MO CONDO - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 6th and 7th free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Accommodates large groups. Call early for reservations (662) 746-4632.
HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.
CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quiltman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.
LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. View, print, or download the 24 page e-book: www.goldenkeys.com.
ATTENTION MINISTERS and self employed. Finally affordable health insurance call (662) 568-3482. Underwritten by the Mega Life & Health Ins. Corp.
SUPER GRACE BEACH HOUSE for rent. Excellent for staff retreats or family vacations. Located in a private subdivision at the beach at Fort Morgan, Ala. Visit our website at <http://super-grace.jumptravel.com> or call Allan or Linda Rankin at (888) 784-4025.
NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College will host the Pine Belt Area Alumni Fellowship Saturday, Sept. 8 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lake Serene Clubhouse in Hattiesburg. Alumni from Forrest, Lamar, Jones, Marion, Covington, Perry, Jeff Davis, and Stone counties are invited to attend this time of fun, fellowship, and food. A catfish dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$7.50 per person and \$5 for children 12 and under. Respond to the Alumni Office at (601) 582-6107 or (800) 962-5991, ext. 107.

Steve Glaze, professor of art, Mississippi College, will be exhibiting new works of art in the Gore Gallery, Aven Hall.

The exhibit opened on Aug. 29 and will run through Sept. 27. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Roberts and Richardson

Mississippi College (MC) held its annual Convocation on Aug. 24 to open the 176th session. Jay Richardson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, was the guest speaker. Pictured (from left) are Lloyd E. Roberts, interim president of MC; and Richardson.

1004 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1000 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.

Wellington Associates, Inc.

PoPS and Me at Garaywa cancelled

The PoPS and Me Day scheduled for September 8 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton has been cancelled due to lack of registration. For more information, contact Debbie Sills, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3320 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 320. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.

Alaska Baptists vote to endorse BFM

SOLDOTNA, Alaska (BP) — Messengers to the Alaska Baptist Convention's annual meeting approved a resolution endorsing the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) and affirming the convention's relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The resolution encouraged "every autonomous Alaska Baptist congregation to study the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and incorporate it into its life and organization as the congregation sees fit."

Jack Green, a member of First Church, Anchorage, was elected convention president. It was also the first convention for new state executive director, David Baldwin.

The convention numbers 68 churches and 26 missions.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

Margaret Lackey: a passion for missions

Margaret McRae Lackey was born in Copiah County in about 1850, the fifth of nine children born to James and Elizabeth Lackey. She grew up doing what most girls in Mississippi did in that era — played games, went to school, and did her chores at home.

She went on to attend Hillman College in Clinton and later taught many years in Mississippi schools.

Lackey, who never married, had a deep love for missions and a goal to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard of the Savior. She used her teaching skills to help the children in her church learn to share her love of missions.

She also enjoyed writing poems and missions study materials so that other Christians could understand the importance of missions.

In 1912, Lackey became the

first paid leader of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her passion for missions was obvious to all who met her.

She once wrote, "Sisters, we have done passingly well this year, but, oh, the untouchable multitude of women and children in Mississippi whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

Lackey retired in 1930 from her position as corresponding secretary of Mississippi WMU.

In 1903, Mississippi WMU began a special observance to emphasize the importance of state missions, which eventual-

ly grew into the Season of Prayer for State Missions. In 1935, the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering taken during the Season of Prayer was named in honor of the person who today remains one of Mississippi's outstanding Baptist leaders.

For more information on the 2001 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, contact Debbie Sills at the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3320 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 320. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.



STAFF CHANGES

Sammy J. McDonald III has resigned the pastorate of Lighthouse Church, Richland, Rankin Association. He is available for pulpit supply and interim in preaching and music. He is also available for revivals, concerts, and bivocational pastorates. McDonald is a graduate of Hinds Community College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He can be

reached by calling (601) 845-1792; writing 102 Moncure Road, Florence, MS 39073; or e-mailing preacherms@webtv.net.

John R. Koch has been called to Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, as pastor, effective Aug. 1. A native of Meridian, Koch is a recent graduate of Mid-America Seminary, Germantown, Tenn. He formally served as seminary

intern with Kirby Woods Church in Memphis.

Jason Elam has resigned as minister of youth and activities at First Church, Eupora. He is leading praise and worship full-time and is available for retreats, rallies, youth revivals, DiscipleNow weekends, and summer camps. Elam may be reached at (662) 324-3585 or www.jasonelam.org



Elam

HOMEcomings

Providence, Hattiesburg: Oct. 7; celebrating 183 years; 10 a.m.; Argile Smith, associate professor of preaching, New Orleans Seminary, guest speaker; Ray Cummings, pastor.

Pinckney, Union: Sept. 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m., and 11 a.m. service followed with lunch at noon and singing; Mike Thompson, guest speaker; Mike Fondren, pastor.

Alexander Memorial, Hollandale: Sept. 9; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch; R. B. McNeer, former pastor, guest speaker; Rick Griffin, pastor.

Bartahatchie, Caledonia: Sept. 16; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing with Sold Out of Smithville; Milton Spotts, pastor.

Sylvarena, Wesson: Sept. 9; 11 a.m.; Jerry Barlow, former pastor, guest speaker; note burning ceremony for the sanctuary; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall; Stuart Givens, pastor.

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Sept. 23; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Dexter Ware, Crystal Springs, speaker; dinner in fellowship hall; 1 p.m., cemetery meeting followed by afternoon singing.

Providence, Cleveland: Sept. 16; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; and musical guest Brent Garrison at 1:30 p.m.; Jimmy Breland, guest speaker; Steve Maughan, pastor; revival, Sept. 17-19, 7 p.m.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: Sept. 16; worship, 10:30 a.m.; 20th anniversary celebration

for Kara Blackard, pastor; Heismen annual homecoming; Sept. 15; 7 p.m.; Crossway Quartet and Frazier Family Band, special guests.

Rutledge suffers stroke

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Don Rutledge, 70, who has photographed Southern Baptist missions worldwide for nearly 40 years, is recovering after suffering a stroke Aug. 13.

"He's doing much better than we originally thought," said daughter-in-law Peggy Rutledge. "They're not anticipating any permanent damage. That's a real praise."

Rutledge, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., has received more than 300 awards for his photographic work, which has taken him to some 140 countries. He retired in 1996, but has continued to work at home and abroad on freelance photo assignments.

He speaks frequently to various groups on the art and craft of photography.

The First Baptist Church of Leland, MS is making available a series of sermons delivered by Jon Doler on the subject of grief.

Sermon titles are:

- ◆ When Death Becomes A Friend
- ◆ This is The Day the Lord Hath Made
- ◆ Don't Go to Sleep When Your Friends are Hurting
- ◆ Lord, Take My Life.
- ◆ May God's Will Be Done
- ◆ When Life is A Gift
- ◆ The Sufferings of This Present Hour
- ◆ Thou Shalt Not Steal My Grief

These sermons were preached by Doler following the 11-year illness and death of his wife, Scotti. These eight sermons on tape are available from the church for \$20.00.

You may order by mail PBC Leland, P.O. Box 286, Leland, MS 38756, by phone (662) 686-7357 or by e-mail fbcl@bellsouth.net.

Look at the big picture.

At Baptist, we're committed to providing a full range of health care services. So, whether you're seeking care for your child's skinned knees or your grandmother's blocked arteries, the picture is clear.

1-800-948-6262
BAPTIST HEALTH LINE
Registered Nurses Available
www.mbhs.org



GOD'S WORD ENOUGH

Editor:

First I say praise the Lord for the words of Editor Perkins comments in the August 9 Baptist Record concerning the deplorable actions of some people in government, but in the same issue there was seen a so-called man of God kissing a pig in order to get people to come to church. Pastor, that is the only reason they were there. People, it is a shame and disgrace when the church has to resort to these kind of things just to have a number. There was a time when God's Word was enough, and when his Word will not do it, the doors on that church ought to close.

R. Garrison, pastor
Belmont Road Church
Sardis

SEARCHING FOR AMD

Editor:

Pearl River Association is seeking resumes from anyone interested in the position of

Associational
Director (AMD).

Resumes may be sent to: Pearl River Baptist Association, Attention: Search Committee, P. O. Box 489, McNeill, MS 39457. Anyone who sent in a resume at an earlier date may feel free to send an updated one if they desire to do so. Resumes will be received until September 28, 2001.

Thank you so much for your

Missions

help in this matter.

Clyde Sellers
McNeill

ANNIVERSARY PLANNED

Editor:

Liberty Church, Noxapater, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 5, 2002.

We are asking all former pastors and past and present mem-

bers to share any information or memories they might have about our church. Also, if you are interested in attending this celebration, send us your name, address, and phone number.

Please mail all information to Janice Carter, Church Clerk, Liberty Baptist Church, 6343 Highway 395, Noxapater, MS 39346.

Janice Carter
Noxapater

Sunday School lesson writers named

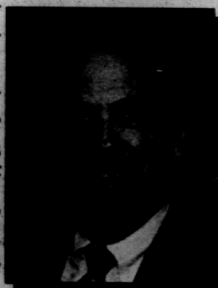
Wayne Marshall of Olive Branch and Dell Scoper of Laurel have been selected to write The Baptist Record's Sunday School commentaries for September - November 2001.

Marshall, who is writing the Family Bible Study commentary this quarter, is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch, having served there seven years.

He has been in full-

time Christian ministry as a pastor or staff member for the last 37 years in the North Mississippi and Memphis metro area. He is a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College, Southern Seminary, in Louisville, Ky., and Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.

He serves as an adjunct professor at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis



Marshall

and is a trustee of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va.

He is married to the former Susan Bell of Memphis and has three children and one grandson.

Scoper, who is writing the Explore the Bible commentary, is a native of Leland.

She graduated magna cum laude from Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

Scoper is the state regent of the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and is a Vice President General of the National Society, DAR.

She has served First Church, Laurel, as Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) director and has taught Sunday School for almost 40 years.

She has served on the associational level in WMU and as stewardship chairman.

She is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive committee and is on the National Advisory Committee of the WMU.

Scoper is married to state senator Vince Scoper. They have two children and six grandchildren.



Scoper



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Can I open an IRA?
Can I invest for
nonretirement needs?
Can my spouse invest too?

Annuity Board participants and their
spouses are eligible for:

- ☒ Traditional IRAs
- ☒ Roth IRAs
- ☒ Rollover IRAs
- ☒ Personal Investment Accounts

Call today: 1-800-262-0511

Visit our Web site: www.absbc.org



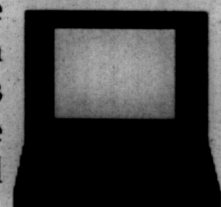
For more complete information about AB Funds Trust, including management fees and expenses, call 1-800-262-0511 to request a prospectus. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. Funds distributed by PFPC Distributors, Inc.

EVANGELISM RESPONSE CENTER ENCOURAGER TRAINING



The North American Mission Board is looking for people to help them in receiving calls from people all over America who want to hear the gospel! If you

would like to witness to receptive people from the comfort of your own home as they contact you, then this conference is for you! For more information or to reserve a spot, call Carol at (601) 956-5000.



Monday ♦ September 17

1-3 p.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Follow the leader

Joshua 1:1-18

By Wayne Marshall

Have you ever played the game, Mother, May I? A leader is chosen and one moves toward the finish line based on the response made to the leader. If the leader gives permission to take one giant step, then you may if you remember to say, Mother, may I. If not, you lose your turn and remain where you were in the line.

Israel could have played this game. Moses had been their mentor, mediator, and manager since Egypt. The people had no other leader. Now Moses was not going into the Promised Land. In Numbers 27:15-20 God puts Joshua in charge as Moses commissions him to lead the people. They are poised and ready, but could this untried rookie leader be trusted?

How do you follow an untried leader into a new land? You must know:

His position (vv. 1-3). It is evident from these verses that God has set Joshua as the leader of God's people. Verse 1 gives clarity to this truth by calling Joshua a minister to Moses. He had a servant's heart and could be trusted.

The promise of a successful ministry is also shown in verse 3 where the bold statement is made regarding marching forward into the land. The word God said to Moses is passed on to Joshua. The past is behind them, but the promise remains.

Perhaps the truth of a statement in Westminster Abby is applicable here: God buries the workman, but the work goes on. Joshua is a true example of



Marshall

the power of God continuing despite time (40 years), test (wilderness), or teachers (Moses). We often experience what God says of us when we express in obedience what God says to us.

His power (vv. 5-7,9). A true leader has a source of power from somewhere. How many

times does a leader come on the scene and quickly depart due to a lack of depth and dependence upon God? Joshua was determined to live in God's power as a leader. The power of God would accompany him into the unknown.

In verse 5 God has promised that he would not let him go. What a powerful statement by which to live your life. Joshua would lead them over an uncharted path, through unknown predicaments, and into unclaimed possessions.

The word for courage is quoted three times in the text. One translator suggests that Joshua would not only stand fortified by God but would

even be obstinate in that spiritual stand. He would have that occasion as the people moved into Canaan.

His pursuit (vv. 7-8). Joshua is commanded by God to be careful to obey all that Moses had taught the people. In verse 7 the idea of prosperity is connected to the observance of the law. It literally means, to have understanding for the task.

The pursuit of a godly life produces in the believer the wisdom necessary to lead others and has little connection to monetary or personal success as the world views it today.

Joshua's obedient pursuit of God would qualify his leadership rather than the human view of success. It would be his prosperity. The two must never be substituted for each other, nor can there be godly success with the world's meaning, message, or ministry.

As the people accepted Joshua and his leadership style so today the church must see a godly legacy in the lives of its leaders. Leadership must pursue the word of God, ways of

God, and works of God if true victory is to be established.

His promise (vv. 16-17). The text reveals God's promises in verses six through eight. The next verses are instructions for preparing the people to possess the land. In verses 16 and 17 the people affirm Joshua as God's choice and show their trust in him as he assumes the leadership role. He has God's promises in his heart and the pledge of the people ringing in his ears.

This step forward into new territory was to be a new adventure in freedom and faith, and adventure that Joshua would never get over during his lifetime.

Father, "may we" should be the cry of every believer as they follow godly leadership. This leadership must position itself under God, depend on God's power, pursue God's presence, and live by God's promises. May God give his Church today more leaders like Joshua.

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Effective witness

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

By Dell Scoper

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-10, Paul enlarged upon the nature of his ministry in Thessalonica, evidently to meet the accusations of his enemies as reported to him by Timothy. The situation was critical, for if Paul's ministry is discredited, then the very foundation of the Thessalonian church is undermined.

First Thessalonians 2:1-12 is a practical reality. We see in these verses that the apostle's communication of the gospel involved a mentoring process, building personal relationships with new believers in which the reality of God's love in the lives of these witnesses was lived out before a pagan culture. Paul reveals to us a heart filled with genuine love for his people.

The Thessalonians were

amazed at Paul, for no one had ever spoken to them about having an intimate mother-infant or father-child relationship with a loving God, and then gone on to demonstrate that same tender, gentle spirit Paul insisted is the fundamental truth of the Good News from God. Paul called this fledgling church to live by the standards contrary to the norms of their secular surroundings.

Be persistent in your witness (vv. 1-2). Contrary to the innuendoes of his critics, Paul affirmed that their visit to Thessalonica was not a failure, i.e., without results or void of meaning. In fact, his preaching was bold and persistent, directed to specific goals.

Paul reminds them that even after undergoing extreme perse-



Scoper

cution in Philippi (Acts 16:16-40), rather than return to Asia, he and his companions pressed on to their city where they also encountered opposition. Again, Paul exhibited great boldness, defined as "a full confidence in the message itself."

Has it been a while since you put your mouth where your heart is (Matt. 6:20-21)? God shouts out his love and sadly, it gets transmitted as a faint whisper. Because we depend on ourselves and not on God, we are imprisoned in silence.

Be pure in your motives (vv. 3-6a). Paul countered the accusation that he was guilty on at least three points by reminding them of the integrity of his behavior. He cared for them, he did not take money from them, his message had no indication of flattery — "God is our witness," which may be seen as an oath to the purity of his motives.

Having denied these serious allegations, Paul then declared his ministry is approved by

God, tested and deemed authentic. He had been entrusted with the gospel as a proven vessel. We too have been entrusted with the gospel, and unless we are daily reading and applying God's word, we shall find ourselves an empty vessel, an ineffective witness. We should ask ourselves: Do I take the "entrustment of the gospel" seriously? Is this entrustment making changes in the way I relate to others?

Be selfless in your concern (vv. 6b-9). My initial impression of Paul revealed his nature as zealous and confrontational. Here Paul presents a side of himself not often seen — his gentleness, his warmth, his feelings, wrapped around the nurturing love of a mother with her infant.

In like manner, the key verse eight affirmed the apostles' willingness to give their very lives for them ("psyche," the whole of one's personality). Therefore, the effective witness today is one who is passionately committed to proclaiming God's gospel with grace and gentleness.

Be upright in your relationships (vv. 10-12). Paul concludes his defense by appealing to the witness of the Thessalonians and of God to the integrity of his behavior, citing holiness, justice, and purity as the ingredients of integrity.

In verses 11-12 Paul changes from the metaphor of a mother's tender care to a new metaphor, that of a father, desiring the very best for his children and counseling them to live lives worthy of God, "who calls you into his kingdom and glory."

Therefore, God's call into his kingdom and glory should be a daily definitive experience and an incentive for us to take the high road in all our relationships.

The Thessalonian world was as difficult and as complex as our own. May we be instructed by the example of Paul and his companions to be effective witnesses, blending boldness with persistence, demonstrating purity of motive, selfless concern, and integrity in all our relationships.

Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JULY 1-31, 2001 MEMORIALS

Lizzie Walden
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hull
Lorena Watkins
Mrs. Anita S. Williams
Allene Watts
Ms. Amy C. Beard
Jimmy Weekly
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Smithy
Lora Mae McDavid White
Carolyn & Wayne Nix
David Wills
Carolyn & Wayne Nix
Mr. Ellis Woodward
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis O. Cummins

Mr. & Mrs. James Lee
Ms. Leona H. Watts
Mrs. Angie Little
Ms. Mary H. Ferguson
Mrs. Mary Alice Mahaffey
Senior Adult SSC, New Zion
BC-Braxton
Mr. & Mrs. Kermit McFerrin
Chester & Shirley Martin
Charlie Miller
Daughters of Ruth SSC,
Woodland Hills BC
Mr. & Mrs. Carl John Olander
Mr. & Mrs. David Denson
Dr. & Mrs. Johnny Pressley
Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard
Rev. Randall Rich & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin F. Hughes
John W. Taylor, Jr.
Office of the Chancery Clerk
Nathan Tillman
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Gibson
William R. "Bill" & Pat Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Turnipseed
Mrs. Margaret S. Tomlinson

AUGUST 1-31, 2001 HONORS

Mr. Tommy Blake
Rev. & Mrs. Randle S. Poss
Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Clark
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter
Mrs. Myra Cotton
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Morgan &
Raqual
Dr. & Mrs. Quinton Dickerson
Wayne & Ann Denton
Mary Lou Lott
Carlton Edmondson, Sr.
Mrs. Joyce Edmondson
Brad Edmondson
Mrs. Joyce Edmondson
Mr. Melvin Fulce
Rev. & Mrs. Randle S. Poss
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Fulton
Ms. Leona H. Watts
Mrs. Charles W. Gadd
Mrs. Daisy Cooper
John Griffiths Hardy
Mrs. Nell Rose Bain Corey
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hargett
Charles & Candy Farrior
Lois Henderson
Frances Allen
Dr. Leroy & Mrs. Earline Howel
Mary-Martha SSC, FBC-
Starkville
Wanda Johnson
Susan Bates
Michele Maxey
RexAnne Rigdon
Melissa Young

AUGUST 1-31, 2001 MEMORIALS

Homer Addy
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Braswell
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Braswell
Mrs. Nell Braswell
Mrs. Reba Agent
State Boulevard BC
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morgan
Mr. Wilson Ainsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sullivan
Malcolm Akers
Ms. Evelyn Vaughn
Ruby Alexander
Mrs. Margaret Williams
Mr. Douglas C. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Raiford Strong
Mrs. Alta Allen
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn
Mrs. Betty Alston
Arlington Heights BC-Pascagoula
Mary Cook Anders
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Card
Jane Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Alderman

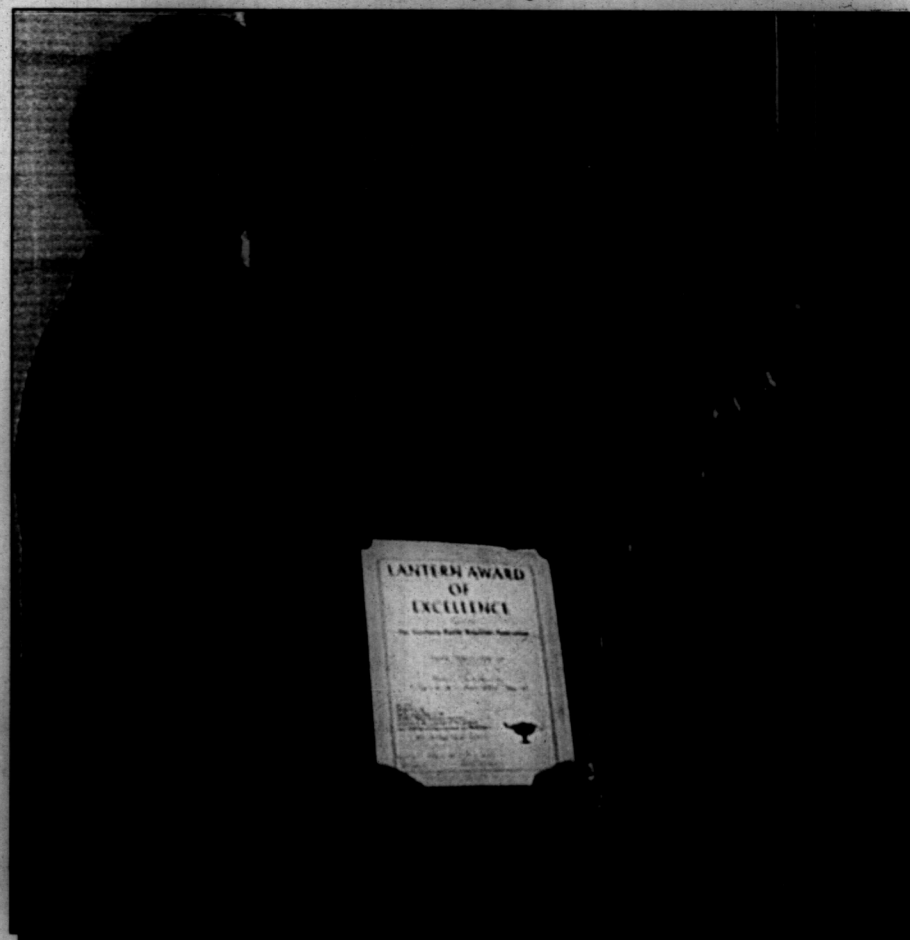
Mrs. Bobbie Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Weisinger
Mrs. Marian Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Childs
Lillian Armstrong
Mrs. Bernice Ruff
Dr. Howard H. Aultman
Mrs. Ethel B. Bourne
Wyndell & Bett
Debbie & Lindsey Varner
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Arthur Axton
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy &
Staff
Loyd Baggett
Mrs. Minnie Baggett
Syble Barkdull
Lindsay & Emma S. Lampton
Mr. Brit Barron
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Downs
Mr. Guy Barton
Mrs. Clyde Hamilton
Mrs. Doris M. Morris
Mrs. Rita Bean
FBC-New Augusta
Mr. Henry Beasley
Mr. & Mrs. Max D. Ball
Dorcas/Fidelis SSC, Seminary BC
Dr. James K. Beck
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sullivan
Mrs. Clara Beck
Mrs. Nell Rose Bain Corey
Richard Bender
Stanton BC-Natchez
Mr. Jimmy Benefield
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Sarah L. (Sally) Berkley
Mr. & Mrs. Grady Huff
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Mrs. "Tot" Bingham
Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Morgan
Mr. Glenn W. Blackwell
Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Raiford Strong
Walter Russell Sr. Bliss
Beja & Charles Everett
Karen & Banks McGraw
Mississippi Chemical Corp.
Rev. R. D. Bond
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Mr. Charles Boscarenio
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Furlow
James L. Bowers
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Evelyn Boyd
Ms. Patricia H. Bradley
Ann, Gerald & Kim Wolfe
Pauline Boykin
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Herbert Bramlett
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Marshall
Mr. Herbert Bramlett
Ms. Dorothy Ward
Mrs. Sarah Brazell
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar E. Arthur
J. P. Breazeale
Mrs. Eunice E. Eubanks
McCallum Law Firm, LLC
Mr. M. L. Brewer
Woodland Hills BC
Enoch Brister
Topisaw Baptist Church
Hardy M. Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Glen L. Flurry
Mr. and Mrs. David Whitfield
Mrs. Faye Lord Brock
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fuqua
Mr. Ed Buckner, Sr.
Mr. Leonard McCullough
Michael Bufkin
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Armstrong
Mr. B. P. Burnham
Mr. Randy F. Rogers
Mrs. Mary Louise Burns
Mrs. Dot Griffin
Kolola Springs BC-Caledonia
Mrs. Aileen L. Spruill
James Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. K. F. Robinson
Minnie L. Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Milam
Mrs. Martell Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Fleet Lofton
Ms. Patricia C. Duckworth
George Calhoun
Hazel Massengale
Tom & Judy Woodward &
Family
Mrs. Rose Mary Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Harold Carpenter
Bill & Deena Barbee
Frances, Richie & Grace
Defenbaugh
Mr. Jerry Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Tony E. Morgan &
Raqual
Robert Carpenter
Graeber Brothers Inc.

Erin Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Avant
Mrs. Mary Ethel Carver
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Charles Causey
Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Everett Jr.
Thomas Chamberlain
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Jackie Chambers
Mrs. Nell D. Fenoglio
Sue Chow
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion
Rev. Ivor Clark
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Anderson
Mr. Carl Chandler Cloer, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Weimer Jr.
Sidney Ellis SSC, Alta Woods BC
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Crawford
Bill, Ann Marie & Leianne
Loveless
Mr. Robert L. Mahon
Mr. & Mrs. H. L. McAdory
Madison Volunteer Firefighters
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Womack
Mr. John L. Clower
Mr. & Mrs. Natie P. Caraway
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Wray
Dr. & Mrs. J. Clark Hensley
Mrs. James K. Cockrell
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Prine
Loretta Gail Cook
Mike's Auto Repair-Mike Russell
Mrs. Geri Cook
Mrs. Louise Draughn
Mrs. Gale Magee Cooke
Mrs. James B. McAlexander
Louise Gullidge
Kelly, Susan(Weaver) & Peyton
Perry
Clint, Wendy, Angela & Michael
Weaver
Thomas, Hazel & Sheila White
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Thornton &
Tony
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Dungan
Mr. R. L. Kemp Jr.
Ms. Kathleen Lindsey
Dr. Robert W. Ratliff
Miss Nancy Jo Cooper
Charles & Minnie Jean Risher
Mrs. Hazel Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Tom Cecil Cooper
Conway Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Cordova
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks E.
Patterson
Mr. F. E. Cotton
Mr. & Mrs. Tony E. Morgan &
Raqual
Joe Thomas Courtney
Mrs. Irene P. Speights & Family
Mrs. W. R. (Ginny) Cox
Mrs. Ruby Engelmann
Mary Catherine Culpepper
Ms. Gladys Williams
Mrs. Margaret Culpepper
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Rose Alice Cupit
Ms. Eva E. Allen
Jerry G. Daniels
Mr. Charles W. Farrior
Larry Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King
Mrs. Lena Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley McQueen
Leland Davisson
Mr. & Mrs. David P. Geil, Jr.
Ms. Flora Mae Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brister
Ms. Addie Kirkland
Della Denley
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Joan Young Dickerson
Ms. Betty Y. Owens
Mrs. Geneva Dickson
Ms. Nancy Buckner
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Young
Lorene Denley
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Williams &
Lisa
Randy Dismuke
Mrs. J. E. Sullender
Mr. T. W. Dulaney, Jr.
Mrs. Geraldine P. Bader
Mrs. Roberta DeFord
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Long &
Benny
Mrs. Camille Dupree
Dr. and Mrs. William B.
Thompson
Lila Earwood
Tate BC (Corinth), Ruth SSC
Aline Eldridge
Mr. and Mrs. Myron McBrayer
Edith Elsten
Mrs. Mamie K. Welch
Peggy L. Entekin
Ms. Elva E. Smith

Carrie Estes
Mrs. Earl Routh
Mrs. Marion Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk
Mrs. Pearl Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Sprayberry
Hugh Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mrs. Vashti Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Leatha Ferguson
Ms. Mary M. Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Ms. Mary Lou Causey
Mr. Vince Ferretti
Mr. Richard C. Bryan Jr.
Leo Walter Foster, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R.
Woodward
Mrs. Catherine Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ballard
Mr. Robert Joe Freeny
Rev. & Mrs. James C. Burns
Mr. Joe E. Fulgham
Leroy, Sandra & Morgan Peebles
Rickey Fulton
Frank & Jean Wisnoski
Mr. Thomas R. Fulton
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie B. Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall
James Furlow
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Furlow
Addie Mae Giles
Jerrie & Lanier Foote
George Gladden
Mr. & Mrs. Dicky Taylor
Mrs. Edith Godwin
Mrs. Margaret S. Tomlinson
Mrs. Verna Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Shows
Ms. Arlin Upchurch
Gary Goss
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Maysie Graham
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wilson
Robert Grechman
Howard & Ida Mae Bridges
Guy R. Green
Mark & Debra Lane
Danny Gregory
Ms. Nancy J. Lewis
Mr. Fred Grenn
Jan Allison
Nancy Moak
Richard Rogers
Tony Rogers
Paul Griffin
Ms. Mary H. McMillin
Helen G. Hall
Mrs. Nancy Gregory
Pam Hall
Pam & Tim Tyler

Mr. Burton Hankins
The Kenneth M. Hayward
Family
Mr. Ralph Harvey
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Anderson
Mr. R. M. (Jack) Hatcher
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Brown
Aubrey Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King
Mrs. Lillie Herndon
Mr. & Mrs. Leonar Halphen
(Vicki, Patti & Ellen)
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy E. Spiers
Shirley Herring
Mr. & Mrs. Grady Huff
Johnny Herrington
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sledge
W. B. (Beryl) Herrod, Sr.
Ms. Elizabeth Passon Tullos
Mr. Carl Frank Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sullivan
Billie Jean Holland
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mrs. Christine Hollingsworth
Doris Archer
Earnest Garrett
Lula Hood
Ruby Jones
Bernice Oswalt
Georgia Hollowell
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O.
Crosthwait Jr.
Mr. Larkin Powers Honea
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Martin &
Family
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Kees Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Micky Little
Walter Brook Hooper
Mrs. Minnie Hudson
Mrs. Mary K. Hosey
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Mrs. Marie Humphries
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Statham
Miss Lorene Hunter
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Anderson
The Ageless Wonders, FBC-
Macon
Mrs. Faye Hunter
John & Nancy Broell
Florence Hembree
Jerry & Linda McNeil
Thomas & Betty Mooney
D. L. Jackson
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mark Jackson
Ms. Kay Roseberry
Mr. Joe D. Jackson
Hopewell Baptist Church
Spring Hill BC-Wesson
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Furlow
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold

Mr. Pete Jackson
Kathryn Bass Moody SSC,
FBC-Poplarville
Pauline M. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Garner Morgan
Mary Frances Johnson
Mrs. Jackie Fuqua
Vernon Johnson
Brownie Crawford
Dee Young
Clarence Jones
Howard & Ida Mae Bridges
Mr. H. L. & Mrs. Lois S. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fuqua
Mrs. Doris Jean Jones
Mrs. Elmer E. Holmes
Mrs. Joyce Jones
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Parker Jr.
Mrs. Nan Keenan
Mrs. Mattie B. Flynt
Eddie Keene
Miss Mary Ida Hoffman
John T. Keeton, III
Mr. & Mrs. J. Fred Burke
Mrs. Nell Rose Bain Corey
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson &
Family
Mr. & Mrs. Barry G. Allen
Mrs. C. R. Burkley
C. R. Burkley, Jr.
Mrs. Ditt P. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. N. S. Kenwright
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore III
Ms. Betty Coffman
Mrs. Lucille Keith
Mr. & Mrs. Leo N. Scruggs
Mr. Wister Kelley
Calhoun County Pastors
Conference
Mrs. Bo King
Mr. & Mrs. Reggie Roberts
Mrs. Martha E. King
Mrs. Bal Mobley
Mrs. Ethel C. Kinnison
Philene & Stuart Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Nan Kelley
Mrs. Ethel M. Ammons
Mr. W. O. Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mr. Bob Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pace
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Pace
Mr. R. L. Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Hathorn
Stella Kerr
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Fannie Kirksey
Mrs. Anita S. Williams
Dr. Lloyd Wade Kitchens
Rae Marie Barr
Sarah M. Barr



Celeste Cade, Public Relations Associate, and Chrystelle Thames, Director of Public Relations, both of The Baptist Children's Village were recently adjudged in the annual competition of the Southern Public Relations Federation presented at the convening of the members from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi at Biloxi, Mississippi, on July 20, 2001. They were awarded a Lantern Award of Excellence and five Lantern Certificates of Achievement.

Americans' bike race advances outreach

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — It was a first for the International Mission Board (IMB) — using a bike race as an outreach strategy in Tanzania.

The 44-mile race, which drew 95 competitors and thousands of onlookers in the city of Maswa, was spearheaded by Southern Baptist missionary Terry Jones in conjunction with Second Church in Springfield, Mo.

Second Church minister of communications Vic Almen and member Phil Harris coordinated and participated in the July 4 bike race, which covered rough terrain with large holes and dry riverbeds.

Jones, knowing that Almen and Harris were avid cyclists, asked them to organize and ride in the race as the culmination of six weeks of mission work in the city.

"I saw the majority of people riding bicycles and saw the opportunity to use a bike race as a means

to open doors to the Gospel," Jones said.

Second Church funded the race and provided the prizes, which consisted of two new bicycles, a camera, and cash.

Seventy-one riders finished the race, including Almen and Harris, who rode with the Tanzanians as encouragers and not as competitors.

Almen said the race made

national headlines in Tanzania, and people of the villages recognized Almen and Harris from the promotional race posters that were distributed.

"The people opened their hearts in friendship and encouragement," Almen recalled.

Six college students from Second Church spent six weeks teaching English to Maswa high school students. Twelve schoolteachers and medical professionals from the church also spent two weeks in the city.

"The work of the people from Second Church has moved my work two years ahead of schedule," Jones said. "The people now know who I am and know that I am here to help meet their physical and spiritual needs."

Mission teams from Second Church also have traveled this year to Nicaragua, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, China, Korea, Nepal, and India.



TANZANIA TREK — Vic Almen (right) and Phil Harris of Second Church, Springfield, Mo., organized and rode in a bicycle race in Maswa, Tanzania, as part of their church's six-week outreach in the African country. (BP photo)

Prayerwalk opens Gospel to Mandinka people

THE GAMBIA (BP) — From the top of the tree, a young man scans the mud flats. He spies what he is looking for — four men dressed in long, flowing robes and matching trousers, walking down the path.

He smiles when he notices the foursome carrying their prayer mats, as every good Muslim does in Gambia. The Koranic teacher scrambles down from the tree and sprints to the men.

"I've been looking for you everywhere," he says. "I climbed a tree over there to find you. You need to come back to my village and talk with me."

The young teacher begins asking questions about the Koran, Islam's most holy book, when one of the older men holds up his hands and says, "We are not Muslim.

We are followers of the prophet Jesus and we have come to pray for your village."

The two International Mission Board (IMB) representatives, Neil Simmons and Todd Luke — their names have been changed for security reasons — explain that they and their friends are walking the length of the entire country and praying for the people they meet along the way.

The teacher stares in disbelief at the two bearded men who speak his Mandinka language. In this part of the world, Christians are not known as people of prayer, let alone people who would inconvenience themselves by walking nearly 400 miles in temperatures reaching over 100 degrees.

After recovering from the initial shock of the news, the young teacher asks the men to come and pray for his village, noting that before now no one had ever come to pray for them.

In early August, a worldwide concerted prayer effort focused on the continent of Africa.

Christians throughout the United States joined others around the world by interceding for the "dark continent" as part of a year-long emphasis, 2001PRAY (Pray 'Round Africa, Yes).

In an effort to prepare the hearts of the Mandinka for this special day of prayer, Simmons came up with the idea of prayerwalking the entire country. There are more than 1.3 million Mandinka in West Africa with little or no access to the good news of salvation in Jesus.

Only a small strip of Atlantic coastline keeps the Republic of the Gambia from being completely surrounded by its larger neighbor, Senegal. Never more than 30 miles wide, Gambia stretches for more than 300 miles, along both banks of the Gambia River and into the center of Senegal.

The 400-mile trek was divided into five different legs, each lasting six days.

One leg was walked each month, beginning in January. Two Southern Baptist volunteers from Alaska and two from Texas joined the IMB workers.

The men walked three to four hours every morning before spreading their mats in some shade to rest in the heat of the day.

After another two-hour walk in the late afternoon, they finally rested in whatever village welcomed them and offered lodging for the night. The men walked with only daypacks, mats, and water purification tablets. They depended on villages for food and water.

The team prayed for more than 50,000 Mandinka on each leg of the walk.

After 40 years of evangelical witness, the Mandinka remain untouched by the Gospel. Steeped in Islamic traditions, the Muslim call to prayer echoes through the land five times a day, prompting the masses to bow toward the holy city of Mecca, thousands of miles away on a different continent.

Ritual prayers are recited in Arabic, a language most do not understand.

"We walked in some very desolate areas, but what made it desolate was not the lack of trees but the darkness of Islam," Simmons said. "These are areas with absolutely no Gospel witness."

"By walking into villages, we were attempting to break down walls and misconceptions of the western missionary — that we typically drive in and deliver a program and then drive out, don't eat the food or water, and don't pray," Simmons said.

Since a Muslim cannot know God, he can't speak directly to him. Without that direct contact with God, prayer is certainly not personal to Muslims, Simmons said.

Yet, in this culture it is important to be a man of prayer because the Koran commands one to pray five times a day.

"Prayer is the only way to open the door to the Gospel," Simmons said.

"In so many places, we were invited to come back and teach in the mosque, the place of important religious teaching," Simmons said. "I already see a need for another walk. The next one will be a 'teaching walk.'"

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1999

C MDXSKWCLN QYKSWM,
KSW RCMHE SYKS VCK
PVC RV KSWW; TLK D
SYAW PVC RV KSWW, YVE
KSWNW SYAW PVC RV
KSYK KSCL SYNK NWVK
BW.

OCSV NWAUVKWWV:

KRWVKI-QDAW

Clue: P = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Thirty-Four.



ISLAM'S GRIP — Throughout West Africa, mosques such as this one in Niamey, Niger, are visible symbols of Islam's sway in that part of the world. A 400-mile prayerwalking initiative among Gambia's Mandinka people included a time of Christian-Muslim exchange outside one such mosque in that country. (BP photo)